



# Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Conservation

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These guidelines are intended to inform OHSU healthcare staff of the current personal protective equipment conservation practices, in conjunction with other PPE guidelines.

There may be discrepancies between the recommendations for similar (but distinct) items on this list, based on supplies or clinical considerations. **These guidelines are also subject to change.** Please continue to check this information regularly.

Reuse and extended use of PPE is recommended to those who have been trained AND feel confident in their ability to safely perform the proper reuse and extended use practices defined below. Unit leadership will decide whether these practices will be implemented on units.


### Definitions of terms:

**Extended use** = wearing one single piece of PPE for repeated patient encounters, either with the same patient or with several different patients **WITHOUT** touching or **removing** the item **in between these encounters**.

- Example: wearing one N95 respirator for several hours straight, without touching it.

**Reuse** = wearing the same piece of PPE for multiple patient encounters, but with **removal of the item** between some or all of these encounters.


- Example: wearing one N95 respirator for a patient encounter, removing that respirator after exiting the patient room and storing it properly, and putting that same respirator back on later for another encounter, either with the same patient or another patient.

Procedure mask	
Staff member may extend use?	<b>YES</b> Avoid touching the mask while wearing
Staff member may reuse?  	<p><b>YES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Practice proper doffing, storage and donning of reused mask</li> <li>• Hand hygiene should be performed before and after contact with the mask</li> <li>• May reuse between multiple patient rooms</li> <li>• For patients in Contact Precautions (including Contact and Droplet Precautions – eg., COVID-19 suspect/confirmed patient), the mask can be reused <b>ONLY</b> if a face shield is worn with it.</li> </ul> <p><b>NO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a face shield is not worn with the mask, the mask <b>CANNOT</b> be reused as it was not protected from splash or spray contamination.</li> </ul>
Multiple staff members may reuse the same procedure mask?	<b>NO</b>
Patient may reuse?	<b>YES</b> Masked patients can continue to use their mask as long as the mask’s integrity is not compromised (i.e. soiled or excessively wet).

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Duration of use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until the mask becomes moist or compromised</li> <li>• Until it becomes visibly soiled</li> <li>• Until it is not structurally intact</li> <li>• One mask should be worn through the entire shift unless it becomes wet or soiled.</li> <li>• The same mask can be worn between patients EXCEPT when required to remove or change the mask to observe isolation procedures or PPE precautions specific to a patient's care.</li> <li>• An unsoiled, undamaged mask may be used for more than one day, especially if it has been worn sparingly, such as for a single patient encounter. Please store it safely in a clean environment if you plan to reuse this precious resource.</li> </ul>
Cleaning between reuse	N/A
Storage between reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hang the procedure mask so it does not come into contact with other materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store used procedure masks in paper bags marked with the health care worker's name/initials.</li> <li>• Facemasks should be carefully folded in half so that the outer surface (front of mask) is folded inward.</li> <li>• Staff should ensure that the paper bag is clean and intact before each use.</li> <li>• The paper bag should be disposed of along with the procedure mask when compromised.</li> <li>• Only one item of PPE should be stored per bag.</li> <li>• Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> <li>• Paper bags can be ordered through the logistics web catalog with item #123357.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place the procedure mask face down in a plastic container (such as Tupperware) with the straps hanging from the sides. Please vent the lid by loosely capping.</li> <li>• The plastic container should be clearly marked with the user's name. The procedure mask and the lid of the container should be placed in the same orientation. Please perform frequent cleaning/disinfection of the plastic container with hospital approved disinfectant when the container is empty.</li> <li>• Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> </ul>
OK for employee to bring from home?	<b>NO</b> homemade PPE may NOT be worn


## Goggles/safety glasses

Staff member may extend use?	<b>YES</b>
Staff member may reuse?  	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspect prior to use, ensure it is not compromised (i.e. cracked or degraded).</li> <li>• Clean with disinfectant wipe before and after use. The preferred disinfectant wipe to use is Oxivir, which has a contact time of 1 minute. Bleach wipes may also be used, but may compromise the integrity of the item (cracking, etc.), and has a contact time of 4 minutes. If residue is observed on the goggles or safety glasses, then 70% alcohol pads may be used to remove residue.</li> </ul>
Multiple staff members may reuse?	<b>YES</b>
Patient may reuse?	<b>NO</b> Patients should not be wearing goggles/safety glasses.

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<b>Duration of use</b>	Use as long as the plastic is intact and not compromised (i.e. cracked or degraded).
<b>Cleaning between reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After use, remove your gown and gloves in the room, perform hand hygiene, exit the room, remove goggles/safety glasses, put on new gloves then clean goggles/safety glasses with disinfectant wipes. Be sure to follow the contact time required for the wipe.</li> <li>The preferred disinfectant wipe to use is Oxivir, which has a contact time of 1 minute. Bleach wipes may also be used, but may compromise the integrity of the item (cracking, etc.), and has a contact time of 4 minutes. If residue is observed on the goggles or safety glasses, then 70% alcohol pads may be used to remove residue.</li> </ul>
<b>Storage between reuse</b>	Return to the isolation cart after disinfecting.
<b>OK for employee to bring from home?</b>	<b>YES</b> The safety glasses/goggles should have protective sides. Prescription eyeglasses are not sufficient.

## Face shield


<b>Staff member may extend use?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Staff member may reuse?</b> 	<b>YES</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Single staff member use only. Inspect prior to use, ensure it is not compromised (i.e. cracked or degraded), but can be used with multiple patients</li> <li>The preferred disinfectant wipe to use is Oxivir, which has a contact time of 1 minute. Bleach wipes may also be used, but may compromise the integrity of the item (cracking, etc.), and has a contact time of 4 minutes. If residue is observed on the goggles or safety glasses, then 70% alcohol pads may be used to remove residue.</li> <li>These should only be discarded once the shield is compromised and should not be discarded after your shift. See storage between uses below.</li> </ul>
<b>Multiple staff members may reuse?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Duration of use</b>	Until compromised (i.e. cracked or degraded)
<b>Cleaning between reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After use, remove your gown and gloves in the room, perform hand hygiene, exit the room, remove face shield, put on new gloves, then clean the face shield with disinfectant wipes. Be sure to follow the contact time required for the wipe.</li> <li>The preferred disinfectant wipe to use is Oxivir, which has a contact time of 1 minute. Bleach wipes may also be used, but may compromise the integrity of the item (cracking, etc.), and has a contact time of 4 minutes. If residue is observed on the goggles or safety glasses, then 70% alcohol pads may be used to remove residue.</li> </ul>
<b>Storage between reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Store the face shield between all uses, including between your shifts.</li> <li>When the face shield is not in use, staff can store the face shield in a paper or plastic bag marked with the health care worker's initials.</li> <li>Only one item of PPE should be stored per bag.</li> <li>Staff should ensure that the paper/plastic is clean and intact before each use.</li> <li>Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> <li>Paper bags can be ordered through the logistics web catalog with item #169703.</li> </ul>
<b>OK for employee to bring from home</b>	<b>NO</b> This increases the risk of cracking or degradation.

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## Procedure mask with built-in eye shield


Staff member may extend use?	<b>YES</b>
Staff member may reuse? 	<p><b>YES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A single staff member may continue to use a procedure mask with built-in eye shield until it becomes moist or compromised.</li> <li>Hand hygiene should be performed before and after contact with the mask with built-in eye shield.</li> </ul> <p><b>NO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If the mask with built-in eye shield is used a room of a patient on Contact Precautions (including Contact and Droplet Precautions), it may NOT be reused.</li> </ul>
Multiple staff members may reuse?	<b>NO</b>
Duration of use	Use until it becomes moist or compromised (i.e. cracked, degraded, etc.).
Cleaning between reuse	N/A
Storage between reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the mask with built-in face shield is not in use, staff can store it in a paper bag marked with the health care worker's initials.</li> <li>Staff should ensure that the paper bag is clean and intact before each use.</li> <li>Only one item of PPE should be stored per bag.</li> <li>Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> <li>Paper bags can be ordered through the logistics web catalog with item #169703.</li> </ul>
OK for employee to bring from home?	<b>NO</b>

## N95 respirator

Staff member may extend use?	<p><b>YES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Avoid touching the N95 respirator mask at all times.</li> </ul>
Staff member may reuse? 	<p><b>YES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Practice proper doffing, storage and donning of reused respirator mask</li> <li>Hand hygiene should be performed before and after contact with the respirator mask</li> <li>Perform a user seal check each time they don a respirator and should NOT use a respirator if the seal check fails</li> <li>May reuse between multiple patient rooms</li> <li>For patients in Contact Precautions (including Contact and Droplet Precautions – eg., COVID-19 suspect/confirmed patient), the N95 respirator mask can be reused ONLY if a face shield is worn with it.</li> </ul> <p><b>NO</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a face shield is not worn with the N95 respirator, the N95 respirator CANNOT be reused as it was not protected from splash or spray contamination.</li> </ul>
Multiple staff members may reuse same respirator?	<b>NO</b>


<b>Duration of use</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Until it becomes visibly soiled</li> <li>• Until it is not well fitted to your face</li> <li>• Until it becomes intolerably uncomfortable</li> <li>• Until the respirator becomes moist or contaminated</li> <li>• One N95 respirator mask should be worn through the entire shift unless it becomes wet or soiled.</li> <li>• The same N95 respirator mask can be worn between patients.</li> <li>• An unsoiled, undamaged N95 respirator mask may be used for more than one day, especially if it has been worn sparingly, such as for a single patient encounter. Please store it safely in a clean environment if you plan to reuse this precious resource.</li> </ul>
<b>Cleaning between reuse</b>	N/A
<b>Storage between reuse</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hang the respirator so that it does not come into contact with other materials.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Store used respirators in paper bags.</li> <li>• When the N95 respirator mask is not in use, staff can store the mask in a paper bag marked with the health care worker's initials.</li> <li>• Staff should ensure that the paper bag is clean and intact before each use.</li> <li>• The N95 respirator should be placed in the same orientation to reduce contamination.</li> <li>• Only one item of PPE should be stored per bag.</li> <li>• The paper bag should be disposed of along with the N95 respirator mask when compromised.</li> <li>• Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> <li>• Paper bags can be ordered through the logistics web catalog with item #169703.</li> </ul> <p><b>OR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Place the respirator face down in a plastic container (such as Tupperware) with the top on and the straps wrapped around the plastic container so that they can be disinfected between uses. Please vent the lid by loosely capping.</li> <li>• The user should be clearly identified and respirators should not be shared between different users.</li> <li>• Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> </ul>
<b>OK for employee to bring respirator from home?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>How do I dispose of mask?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Discard into regular trash (biohazardous trash not necessary).</li> </ul>

## PAPR face shield


<b>Staff member may extend use?</b>	<b>YES</b>
<b>Staff member may reuse?</b> 	<b>YES</b> Single staff member use only.
<b>Multiple staff members may reuse?</b>	<b>NO</b>
<b>Duration of use</b>	Until the shield becomes compromised (cracked, degraded, etc.)

Cleaning between reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>After use, remove your gown and gloves in the room, perform hand hygiene, exit the room, put on new gloves and remove PAPR, then remove and clean the face shield with disinfectant wipes. Clean the front and back of the shield with friction. The preferred disinfectant wipe to use is Oxivir, which has a contact time of 1 minute. Bleach wipes may also be used, but may compromise the integrity of the item (cracking, etc.), and has a contact time of 4 minutes.</li> <li>When the face shield is not in use, staff can store the face shield in a hospital-issued bag marked with the health care worker's initials. Staff should ensure that the bag is clean and intact before each use.</li> </ul>
Storage between reuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>When the face shield is not in use, staff can store the face shield in a hospital-issued bag marked with the health care worker's initials.</li> <li>Staff should ensure that the bag is clean and intact before each use.</li> <li>Only one item of PPE should be stored per bag.</li> <li>Please store in your unit/office/department.</li> </ul>
OK for employee to bring from home?	<b>NO</b>

## Disposable gowns

Staff member may reuse?		<b>NO</b>
Multiple staff members may reuse?		<b>NO</b>
Duration of use		A single patient encounter
Storage between reuse		Discard after use
OK for employee to bring from home		<b>NO</b>

## Gloves

Staff member may reuse?		<b>NO</b>
Multiple staff members may reuse?		<b>NO</b>
Duration of use		A single patient encounter
Cleaning between reuse		N/A
Storage between reuse		Discard after use
OK for employee to bring from home		<b>NO</b>